

**Report from Commissioner Terry Holliday
for the
February 8, 2013 Council on Postsecondary Education Meeting**

Kentucky Breaks into Top 10 in National Education Ranking - In a recent press conference, Governor Beshear announced that Kentucky's ranking in an annual assessment of all states on key education indicators rose four places, making it 10th in the nation for its efforts to improve teaching, raise student achievement and many other variables related to public education. The press release is titled "KY Breaks into Top 10 in National Education Ranking" and can be found at <http://kentucky.gov/Pages/home.aspx> under the January 10, 2013 date.

Each year, *Education Week* (a national publication that focuses on P-12 education) produces a special issue, "Quality Counts." The report tracks key education indicators and grades states on their policy efforts and outcomes. Last year, Kentucky ranked 14th in the nation. In 2010, the state was in 34th place in this annual report.

"Quality Counts" provides data and information about states' efforts in six areas:

- K-12 Achievement
- Standards, Assessments & Accountability
- Teaching Profession
- School Finance
- Transitions & Alignment
- Chance for Success (an index that combines information from 13 indicators that cover state residents' lives from cradle to career)

States were assigned overall letter grades based on the average of scores for the six categories. This year, Kentucky's overall grade was B- an improvement over last year's grade and a higher grade than the national average, which was a C+.

No states received a grade of A in the 2013 edition of "Quality Counts." The highest-ranking state was Maryland, with a B+. Three states received B grades; eight states (including Kentucky) received B- grades; and 19 states received C+ grades.

This is the 17th edition of the annual "Quality Counts" report, and the theme this year is the impact of a school's social and disciplinary environment on students' ability to learn and on the teacher and administrators tasked with guiding them.

The full report is available at <http://www.edweek.org/ew/toc/2013/01/10/index.html?intc=EW-QC13-EWH>.

Report Completed on Competency-Based Education – In May 2012, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) was awarded a technical assistance grant on "Awarding Credit to Support Student Learning" by the National Governor's Association (NGA). The purpose of the grant was to provide support for the exploration of educational policies and practices related to the awarding of credit based on competency or mastery of a subject rather than for "seat time." Per the requirements of the grant, a state leadership team gathered information on competency-based

education systems; the specially formed team planned and executed a statewide summit to expand the conversation to a broader audience. The summit was held on October 30, 2012 at a competency-based high school in Scott County. More than 150 participants from K-12 and postsecondary education, the business community and out-of-school programs heard presentations from national experts and local leaders. The report that resulted from this work is now available at: <http://education.ky.gov/school/innov/Pages/Competency-based-Education-.aspx>.

Kentucky Board of Education Passes 2013 Legislative Agenda - The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approved its 2013 legislative agenda at the December meeting. The items on the agenda are as follows:

- **Professional Growth and Effectiveness**

Amend KRS 156.557 to update statutory language to reflect the changes to the teacher effectiveness system.

Under direction of the Kentucky Board of Education's (KBE's) Strategic Plan, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) has undertaken a two-year study and task force to update the current statewide personnel evaluation system. Providing teachers, administrators and districts the tools needed to support and improve performance, KDE plans to implement the Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES). PGES focuses on several areas including: Planning and Preparation, Classroom Environment, Instruction, Professional Responsibilities, and Student Growth.

- **Preschool Funding Formula**

Update 157.3175 and Repeal KRS 157.226 to adjust the funding formula for preschool.

The current formula is based on the December 1 count of the previous year (December 1, 2009) for each preschool funding category: at-risk, speech, developmental delay, and severe. Additional funds from a supplemental 3s count (three-year-olds with disabilities) are included in each district's allocation. Districts whose enrollments decreased more than five percent from the last two December 1 counts receive a negative funding adjustment and districts whose enrollment increased by more than five percent receive a growth adjustment. By removing the five percent negative and positive (growth) adjustments, funding is stabilized for the districts and they can plan decisions on more current data.

- **Career and Technical Education (CTE)**

Amend various KRS Chapters 12, 151B, 156, 157, 158, 161, 164, 165.

Through Executive Order 2012-737, the Governor has united the state's two career and technical education systems under KDE. The goal in merging the state-administered system with the locally-operated system is a more efficient delivery of programs that are more accessible, academically rigorous and better aligned with the requirements of postsecondary institutions and employers. Seventy-five percent of Kentucky high school students, more than 150,000 pupils, were enrolled in career and technical education programs last year in 323 middle and high schools, area technology centers and career and technical centers across the state.

- **Compulsory School Attendance**

Amend KRS 159.010 to raise the compulsory school age for attendance from 16 to 18.

Under the current law, KRS 159.010, students in Kentucky are eligible to leave school, before graduating, at the age of 16. This proposed change will raise the compulsory school age to 18. This statutory change will be supported by many initiatives being undertaken by the department and local districts through the dropout prevention grants as well as through other means. An estimated 6,500 Kentucky students drop out of grades 9-12 each year. Many programs exist to support retaining these students including access to dual credit, middle college, career learning (CTE), credit recovery and alternative education programs.

For more information on the board's legislative agenda, contact Tracy Goff Herman at (502) 564-4474 or via e-mail at tracy.herman@education.ky.gov.

Next Kentucky Board of Education Meeting: February 6, 2013